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## FOREWORD

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BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON  
THREE EMINENT MEDICAL SCIENTISTS

- Bulgaria -

Following is a translation of biographical sketches of doctors in the Bulgarian-language publication, Khirurgia (Surgery) Vol XV, No 12, Sofia, 1962, pages 1118-1122)

Professor Georgi Yankov

Forty Years of Medical Service

During October of this year, 40 years of service as a doctor, a public-spirited politician, a scientist and a teacher have been completed by Professor Dr. (professor d-r) Georgi Yankov, head of the faculty in ear, nose, and throat medicine at the Higher Medical Institute (Vessh Meditsinski Institute; in Sofia.

Professor Yankov is descended from a progressive and revolutionary family, which has participated actively in the struggle for the liberation of the Bulgarian people from Turkish bondage. His father, a colonel of volunteers, Anastas Yankov, participated in the Macedonian liberation movement, and died as the leader of a detachment in an engagement with the Turkish army in 1906 at the village of Vlakhi, Melnishko. A sister of his mother is Raina Popgeorgieva, well known as Raina Knyaginya. His brother, Kosta Yankov, a member of the TSK /Tsentralen Komitet; Central Committee/ of the BKP /Bulgarska Komunisticheska partiya; Bulgarian Communist Party/, was killed in 1925, in the battle against the fascists.

During his student years, Dr. Yankov entered into the struggle of the people for freedom and truth. His personal intensity of purpose merged with the idealism of the Bulgarian Marxists, and his whole life is bound in with the revolutionary movement. Since 1918, he has been a devoted fighter in the ranks of the Bulgarian Communist Party. After he had finished his middle school education in Sofia, he studied medicine in Vienna. His lodgings in Vienna were a meeting place for Bulgarian communist refugees, including G. Dimitrov and Vasil Kolarov. As a student, G. Yankov was founder and first secretary of the Student Communist Group (Studentskata Komunisticheska) in Vienna, and as chairman

of the Bulgarian Young Communist League (Bulgarskiiia Mladezhke Komunisticheski) he participated in the Congress of the German and Austrian Young Communist League (Kongresite na Germanskiya, Austriskia Komunisticheski). In 1922, he completed his medical training, and entered into specialization under Professor Kaler in the University Clinic for Ear, Nose, and Throat Ailments (Universitetskata Klinika po ushni, nosni i gurleni bolesti) in the city of Freiburg, Germany. After completing his specialist training, he returned to Bulgaria, where, after being named as military surgeon, the acting director of the Clinic for Ear, Nose, and Throat ailments, Professor St. Belinov, took him into the clinic as his assistant. During the year 1925, however, he was arrested and sentenced for communist activity. In prison, G. Yankov extended and enriched his Marxist and general culture. Released from prison in the beginning of 1927, he accepted a position as supernumerary doctor in the Sofia Principal Government Hospital, (Sofiskata purvostepenna Gurzharna Bolnitsa) in the department of ear, nose and throat ailments, where he entered upon active social-political and medical activities. At the hospital, progressive doctors united around him, and he was in the center of the legal work. Dr. Yankov worked diligently, and was one of the founders of the "Social Medicine" (Obshlestren lekar) organization. He wrote popular scientific articles, and labored on his own personal work, "The Influence of Noise, Concussion, Rapid and Sharp Changes upon Hearing", which was reprinted in foreign periodicals. As a medical specialist, he gave promise of becoming one of the best known men in Sofia, and in spite of his "unreliability," in 1936 he was appointed head of the ear, nose, and throat ailment department in the same hospital. He received for treatment convicts, outlaws, communists, and progressive individuals, for whom he guaranteed the highest quality of medical help. In June of 1937, he signed, together with other comrades, a protest against the German Hitlerites, who during the Spanish war had bombarded the open city of Guernica, for which the fascists removed him from his position and, at the end of 1937, he was out of work, but they were compelled to take him back because of his high medical qualifications.

Participating even in the fascist period in the sixth congress as a reader of original scientific works, Professor Yankov was the author of many essays, a large proportion of which received wide acclaim, and have been quoted in world literature. Among these, for example, are: "The Influence of Temperature Changes upon Hearing"; "Observed Blood Reaction upon Inflammation of the Circumnasal Cavities"; "Upon the Connections between the Arteries of the Middle and Inner Ear and their Clinical Importance"; "On the Care and

Treatment of Labyrinthal Infections of the First and Second Class, and many others.

Dr. G. Yankov took an active part in the Bulgarian and International Medical Congresses (Bulgarskite i chuznd-estranrite lekarski kongresi), with discussions and participation in reports. At the same time, he worked upon the problem of deafness in Bulgaria, and helped actively in organizations and care for the deaf, for whom he was the best doctor and friend, and accordingly he was annually chosen as head of the Association for the Deaf in Bulgaria.

At the time of the evacuation of the hospital in Ikhtiman, Dr. G. Yankov actively assisted the interned Jews and partisans, and it was only thanks to the popular uprising of 9 September 1944 that he was not again thrown into prison.

After the popular uprising of 10 September 1944, the possibility was open for Dr. Yankov to do real creative work. From then on he devoted himself to his profession. Communist ideology grew deeply in his soul; his honesty and excellence in business matters were his great virtues, which the popular authority and his colleagues duly appreciated. In the beginning of 1945, he was chosen regular assistant professor, and Dr. Yankov became head of the University Clinic for Ear, Nose, and Throat Ailments at Sofia. During the following year, there was an opening on the medical faculty at Plovdiv, and Dr. Yankov was chosen as first president and regular professor. For his great services on this faculty, Professor Yankov was chosen for the academic council as honorary doctor of Plovdiv University (Plovdivska Universitetet).

Professor G. Yankov labored on his scientific work, "On the Care and Treatment of Labyrinthal Infections," in which he mapped out his own original scientific thought. He did not at that time share the opinions of Soviet and Western authors, and in 1946, he wrote on the influence of the cerebral cortex upon the subcerebral centers, the semicircular canals, and spontaneous nystagmus. Through the introduction of caffeine into the labyrinth, Meniere's disease (labyrinthine dropsy) was influenced through the outer covering of the brain and the intensity of the spontaneous nystagmus in a way unknown to world otorhino laryngologists up to that time. At the same time, he was working on "The Hearing Functions of the Ear," and other problems. In 1948, at the congress of Hungarian doctors in Budapest, he delivered his report "On the Allergic Ring," and at other congresses, reported on "Penicillin Treatment in Otorhino Laryngology," "Radical Trepanning," "Influence of the Brain Covering upon Spontaneous Nystagmus in the Tympanic Labyrinth, and Meniere's Disease," and others. He read reports

and lectures in Czechoslovakia, and worked on "Precancer Conditions of the Larynx," in which, together with his co-workers, he demonstrated the degeneration of non-malignant substances into malignant tumors. A tireless leader of the department in scientific subjects, Professor G. Yankov advised and assisted, organized experimental work, and was the doctor closest to the sick.

After the completion of his foreign scientific assignments in 1956, he was the first to begin, in Bulgaria, operations for otosclerosis, and skillfully accomplished the operation--fenestration--whereby he restored hearing to the sick.

He is the author of several textbooks on ear, nose, and throat ailments for medical students, stomatologists, and ordinary medical personnel. Under his editorship, the most outstanding of our otorhino-laryngological works, governing treatment of the ear, nose, and throat by specialists, were worked out. A fundamental feature of Professor Yankov's scientific and teaching work is the model preparation for experiments and demonstrations, in which he demonstrates the basic principles of mastering the science, the training for true creative techniques and routines, to his co-workers and to his students.

An excellent speaker with a sound sense of humor, Professor Yankov has enthusiastically interspersed his speeches with demonstrations and information, as he explained matters in his lectures. Under his ceaseless attentions, a considerable number of specialists have been trained and continue to be trained, many of whom are managing departments in the hospitals of the okrugs, and polyclinic consultants. Professor Yankov interests himself particularly in the training of permanent medical personnel for the clinics. He is continuously seeking and applying new administrative methods for his co-workers, to whom he gives a wide field for unlimited creative work.

Professor Yankov is not only in charge of the Clinic for Ear, Nose, and Throat Ailments at the Higher Medical Institute at Sofia, but he has twice been selected as head of the faculty of Medicine. There is not a single scientific or social matter in which Professor Yankov has not taken an active part. He is president of the Council of Scientific Workers МНО (Министерство на Народната Отбрана, chief consultant of the (Съюза на научните работници) (Ministry of National Defense), assistant editor of the periodical Хирургия (Surgery) and member of the board of editors of the Soviet periodical Vestnik Oto-rino-laringologii (Journal of Otorhino Laryngology).

The 40 years of service of Professor Yankov are a shining example for well-trained doctors in scientific and

social responsibilities.

As a communist, he has shown high morality in the party and socially, devoted to truth and right, and has fought for these to the end without wavering.

Treatments by Professor Yankov result in happiness, as has been shown, and have given rise to the most enthusiastic emotions and gratitude. The students and doctors are devoted to him, because he is spontaneous and intimate with them, sympathetic and sincere, filled with kindness. With his optimism, he always creates a pleasant creative atmosphere, for the group with which he is working.

In public, G. Yankov is known for his modesty and civic courage, for his great, loving, manly heart.

The party and the government, in appreciation of his services, has decorated him with orders and medals.

Professor Yankov at the present time is in good health, inspired, burning with the flame of desire to be useful for many years to science and his country.

Celebrating Dr. Yankov's 40 years of medical, social-political, scientific, and pedagogical service, we, some of his colleagues and students, wish him many, many years of natural, youthful vigor for service to the people and the country.

#### Professor Antal Babics at 60 Years

Professor (profesor) Antal Babics--vice-chairman of the urology faculty of the Medical University of Budapest (Meditsinskia universitet b Budapeshta), was born in 1902. He completed his medical training in 1929, and immediately thereafter took up the specialty of urology. In 1945 he was a professor, and also vice-chairman of the faculty of urology in Budapest. Professor Babics is also a member of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences (Ungarskata akademia na Naukite) and secretary of its medical section.

In the field of urology, Prof. Antal Babics is famous on a world-wide level. Heir to one of the first urological schools in the world, founded by the great urologist Iles Geza, he has continually developed it with great love and effort, including an array of new and original conceptions in many fields of theory and practice. Possessing great erudition, scientific and theoretical training, and at the same time an enviable operating technique, he succeeded in creating a model urological clinic with 120 beds. In his clinic, a large number of scientific colleagues work, and for them Prof. Babics shows incessant concern. Under his scientific direction, many specialists are trained, of whom some have become assistant professors, and others, masters of medical sciences. The clinic has modern equipment,



with an instrument room and apparatus, including an artificial kidney, with which up to now over 100 extracorporeal hemodializations have been carried out.

Prof. Babics is the author of more than 90 scientific works and six monographs. Through his great experience, he has worked out a system in the cardinal problems of urology, whereby he has clearly shown the erudition and scholarship of a great scientist. The first of his monographs, Vuprosina uremiyata; vodniya obmen pri bubrechnite zabalyavaniya, (Problems of Uremia and--Aqueous Interchange in Diseases of the Kidneys) was published in 1942. He issued a text book in urology in 1952, in which the materials are expounded, not according to the organs, but by nozologichni /probably misprint for novologichni (new logical)/ order. In the past few years, he has written his great work, Patofiziologiya i khurgurgiya na limfnata sistema na bubreka (Pathophysiology and Surgery of the Lymphatic System of the Kidneys), which, after one year, was translated into German. In this monograph is set out a new system of the morphology of the lymphatic system of the kidneys and their role in the development of infections. The problems of unification with hydronephritis are viewed in a new light. The author has demonstrated through experiments that, as a result of pathological processes in the lymphatic system, folds occur in the kidneys, which at the same time reduce the conservative effectiveness of the kidney and the outstanding role of the lymphatic system in beginning and sharpening glomerulous nephritis.

Besides the active participation which he takes in the scientific life of his country, Professor Babics is a regular participant to a very great extent in the international urological journal, Urologia Internationalis (International Urology)

He had visited our country twice, and has become closely acquainted with the achievements of our people, even in that short time, and has lost no opportunity to express his admiration for our beautiful country. Besides this, he has visited almost all the Popular Democratic countries.

For his great achievements in the fields of science and medicine, he was decorated several times by the Presidium of the Hungarian Peoples' Republic. He has also won the "Kossuth" award.

On the occasion of his anniversary, we Bulgarian urologists and surgeons wish him health, and new successes in the sciences.

Iv. Viktorov.

#### Doctor Teodor Todorov, on 60 Years

Dr. (d-r) Teodor Todorov, for many years secretary of the Republican Scientific Assembly of Surgeons (Republikanskoto Nauchno Druzhestvo na Khrurzite), has reached his sixtieth year. We wish him health, and that he may remain energetic and devoted to his work in the affairs of surgery in our country.

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